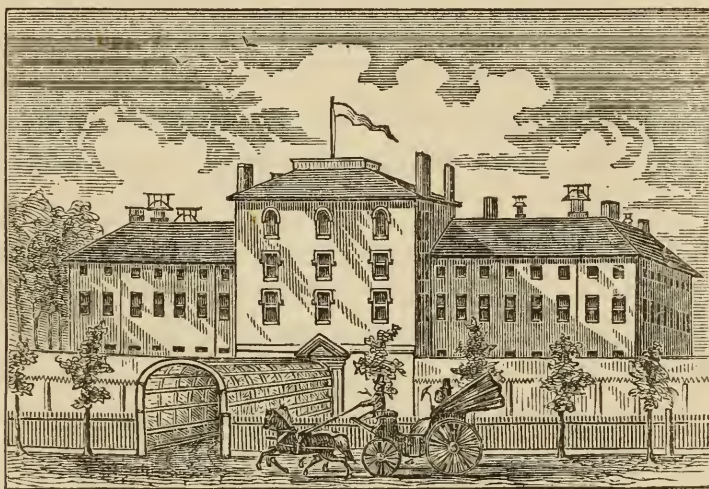

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INSPECTORS
OF THE
STATE ALMSHOUSE,



AT
BRIDGEWATER.

OCTOBER, 1865.

BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER, STATE PRINTERS,
No. 4 SPRING LANE.
1866.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts and the Honorable Executive Council.*

In compliance with a law of this Commonwealth, the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater, most respectfully present their Twelfth Annual Report for the year terminating September 30th, 1865 ; with the reports of the Superintendent, the Physician and the Chaplain hereto annexed.

The report of the Superintendent, L. L. Goodspeed, Esq., furnishes a detailed account of the *modus operandi* in the various departments of the institution, and also of its financial condition, in such a full, clear and intelligent manner, as to leave but little for the Inspectors to report, except, perhaps, a brief statement of facts relating to the management, finances and general condition of the establishment.

Our regular round of business and duty having so much sameness or similarity in each successive year, our annual reports must necessarily contain much of the same impress in thought, in language and character as those of preceding years ; with such improvements and recommendations, as from time to time, observation, reflection and experience may suggest.

It has been the desire and aim of the officers of this, and, we doubt not, of those of the other beneficent and charitable institutions of the Commonwealth also, to carry out the noble and

philanthropic design and object of the government and people in administering relief and comfort to the destitute and friendless, to those who are cast upon the charity of the State, without means to help themselves, or friends to assist them in the hour of adversity and want.

The number of inmates now in the almshouse is 482.

The number admitted during the year, 1,393.

The number discharged during the year, 1,231.

The number of deaths during the year, 165.

The number of births during the year, 52.

The number sick now in the hospitals, 127.

Number of children removed to Monson during the year, about 60.

Number of children now in almshouse, 128.

Our visits to this institution have been regular and frequent, as heretofore, and from diligent inquiries into its management, as well as from careful observation and examination of its various departments, we find abundant cause of satisfaction with the order, discipline, economy, good government, and a due regard for the welfare of the inmates, manifested throughout the establishment. The buildings are in a very decent condition, within and without, and cannot require a large expenditure for repairs during the ensuing year. The halls and other apartments in the buildings are capacious, airy, well ventilated, well warmed, clean, and most of them well arranged and convenient.

The rooms are warmed mainly by furnaces; which are more expensive and less healthy, more dangerous and less comfortable for the occupants, than they would be if heated by steam. We therefore, most respectfully urge the necessity of an appropriation for that purpose.

We have so many times, in our former reports, urged in vain the necessity of an additional building (not a large one,) for the demented and partially insane, that we should forbear asking attention to the subject at this time, did not the comfort and well-being of the inmates, sane and insane, imperiously demand it from us. We most respectfully ask the attention of the legislature to this subject.

The inmates are kindly cared for by a discreet, humane and long experienced gentleman, the Superintendent, by whose

untiring efforts, together with those of his estimable wife, the chief matron, all are made as comfortable and happy as the infirmities of their minds and bodies will permit. They have not many of the luxuries of life, nor are they clothed in fine linen ; but their fare consists of good, substantial, wholesome food, well cooked and enough of it. And their clothing is made of good materials, warm, neat and comfortable.

This household includes the old and the young, the infirm, decrepit, blind, deaf, dumb, idiotic, demented, sick and diseased, from every clime.

There is scarcely an able-bodied man among the inmates ; especially is that the case in the warm season, when their labor can be made available.

There are generally in the house a few females able to do house-work, who are employed in the washing and ironing rooms and in cleaning the hospitals, halls and other apartments.

The cooking apparatus, including the boilers and such utensils as are required in preparing food for the inmates, are in good condition, and so arranged as to facilitate the operations of that department and promote economy and comfort.

The whole number of inmates during the year now closed is greater than in the preceding year ; but the number in the hospitals and the number of deaths during the same period of time is less.

The hospitals of the house are under the immediate care of Dr. Samuel Young, the attending physician, a humane, kind-hearted gentleman, assisted by several attentive and faithful nurses in both the male and female department. Dr. Harlow, a distinguished physician of Hingham, has recently been appointed the consulting physician, *vice* Dr. Asa Millet, resigned.

In the insane ward, are the partially insane and demented, among whom are some who will hardly bear the qualification of partially. All these are kindly cared for, and made as comfortable as in their situation they can be. Could they be placed in a separate building, apart from the sane inmates, both classes would be more comfortable and less annoying to each other than they now are, and the rooms now occupied by them, used for other purposes, for which they are much needed.

There are two schools as heretofore ; these are in charge of the Misses Robinson and Patten, two able, faithful, and efficient teachers. In these schools are taught the same branches which are taught in the public schools of the Commonwealth.

Two large play-grounds for the children have been inclosed in the grove west of the buildings, where they exercise and amuse themselves freely when the weather is suitable for outside recreation. The trees of the grove furnish protection from the rays of the sun ; the grass, short and clean, with a healthful and invigorating air, give additional zest to the enjoyment of the sport, and increased energy to the mental and physical faculties.

About sixty children have been removed from this to the Monson Almshouse during the year past.

The library of the institution, though not large, contains a good selection of books for the class of readers here congregated, and is used by a portion of the inmates, particularly by the children, whose education is far in advance of many of the adult inmates, a large number of whom are unable to read or write ; yet there are some who can and do understand and appreciate what is read to them.

Religious services are continued in the chapel, on the Sabbath, by the Chaplain, Rev. P. L. Cushing, who for some years has held that office, and whose faithful teaching is not without a salutary influence upon many of his hearers, whose hearts are not of the flint and steel texture, whose minds are susceptible to religious and moral instruction. The children still constitute the choir, and under the direction of their teachers, perform the singing on the Sabbath.

An extensive and commodious piggery has been constructed during the past year, capable of holding a large number of swine. While examining this dwelling for one of the lowest orders of the brute creation, we could not avoid the suggestion, of how much better these swine were cared for and treated, than were our brave soldiers when confined as prisoners in the Libby, Salisbury, and other rebel prisons during the war. Their food, their shelter, their cleanliness, even, is better, and in every respect they are treated more like human beings, than were our noble, war-worn soldiers when confined in the dens of the rebel confederacy.

A portion of the female inmates, who are incapacitated for more laborious service, are employed in the sewing-room in making and repairing garments for the inmates. They can do but little anywhere ; but moderate and regular employment for such as are able, is far better for the mind and body than a lingering life of idleness, though but little is accomplished in the way of labor.

A small number of males, disqualified for active and laborious work, are employed a portion of the time in hammering stone into small pieces to be used in the yards and passage-ways, and which are sometimes used for macadamizing the roads in the neighborhood. These men work leisurely in a sitting posture ; and although no one effects much by his labor, yet in the aggregate something is accomplished and the health of the inmates is improved.

Still another class, in tolerable bodily health, but sadly deficient in intellect, are found among the inmates. The number of these is not large, and they are employed in and around the yards and buildings, where more muscle and less brain is required.

The stock on the farm has not materially changed in number or quality. The number of cows and of swine is increased some, and both are in good condition. Continued improvements are made in the breed and quantity of the stock, by the Superintendent, in whose judgment and discretion we have great confidence. The poultry-yard is stocked with turkeys, geese, and other fowls.

Of the farm connected with this institution, we have often spoken in terms of commendation ; and it gives us pleasure to be able to reaffirm our previous statements on that subject ; and to add that its increased fruitfulness is evidence of the excellent management by the Superintendent, who, from the starting point of the establishment, has conducted its operations with good judgment and great success.

From a few acres of worn-out and unproductive soil, and many acres of quagmire, bushes, fen and rocks, presenting anything but an attractive and encouraging aspect, it has, by constant, careful, judicious management, been gradually, but steadily improving, until by far the greater part of the land is now in a high state of cultivation. The facilities for making

manure, by good management, are not often surpassed; the sewerage from the house is so arranged as to aid greatly in the preparation of fertilizing compost, and measures are steadily in progress to extend the means of enriching the soil, and, in this way, of increasing the quantity and of improving the quality of its productions: During each year a portion of the land has been reclaimed, and made productive; and with the same care and culture in the future as in the past, for a few additional years, the whole will be made productive, and furnish the necessary supplies, not only for the stock on the farm, but for the inmates of the house, so far as the productions of the farm may contribute to their support.

A large and thrifty young orchard of apple-trees has commenced bearing, and promises much for the future. Pears, peaches, as well as apples, are in good bearing condition.

More than three thousand bushels of potatoes have been gathered, with other vegetables, in large quantities, during the summer and autumn.

About sixty tons of hay, in good condition, and about ten tons of oats have been gathered into the barns during the past summer.

While the leading object in the management of the farm has been so to cultivate and improve it, as to secure the greatest amount and best quality of food for man and beast, a proper regard for the appearance of the buildings and their surroundings, of the farm, its stock and implements of husbandry, has not been overlooked or disregarded. The grounds in front, and around the buildings, are studded with fruit and ornamental trees and shrubbery, with grape and other vines, and flowers, arranged with much good taste, rendering the whole attractive and useful.

A schedule of the farm productions, with an inventory of implements, stock, furniture, provisions, &c., together with an appraisal, as required by law, will be found in the Superintendent's report, by which it will be seen that the expenses of the institution have been increased during the past year in not a large sum. One reason for this is the increased number of inmates; another, and the principal cause, is the great advance in the price of nearly everything used for the support of the inmates, not of the almshouse only, but of the country, and

upon every branch of honest industry in the land. Nor can we see in the future any promise of an early mitigation of existing evils; any reduction in the prices of most of the necessities of life.

The expenses of the past year amount to \$44,851.25. The receipts from all sources amount to \$44,851.25.

Many things have been done during the year, not of great moment in themselves, but which, in the aggregate, have contributed much to alleviate the sufferings of the sick, the decrepit, and the orphan, and to comfort and provide for those without friends and without a home.

In closing this Report, we would renew the expression of our satisfaction and confidence in the ability, the integrity, and fidelity of the Superintendent, whose untiring efforts have been uniformly devoted to the best interests of the institution. Nor could we withhold our acknowledgment to such of the assistants as have been faithful in aiding the Superintendent to carry out and perfect the designs and purposes of the Commonwealth in the establishment of these homes for the destitute and friendless sons and daughters of woe and want.

JAMES FORD,
J. H. MITCHELL,
J. B. THAXTER,

Inspectors.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*To the Inspectors of the State Pauper Establishment, at
Bridgewater:*

GENTLEMEN,—The following is the record of the year now
losed, and respectfully presented for your examination:—

SUMMARY OF INMATES.

Number in the house, Oct. 1, 1864,	.	.	.	.	485
admitted during the year,	.	.	.	.	1,393
in the house during the year,	.	.	.	.	1,878
discharged and returned,	.	.	.	.	1,231
died during the year,	.	.	.	.	165
remaining, Oct. 1, 1865,	.	.	.	.	482

Number of men, 117 ; women, 237 ; boys, 58 ; girls, 70.

EXPENDITURES.

Amount expended from October 1, 1864, to
December 31, 1864, was \$14,001 65

RECEIPTS FOR SAME PERIOD.

Cash from treasurer of Commonwealth,	.	.	\$11,394 08
stock sold and various small items,	.	.	448 43
treasurer as per resolve of the legisla- ture,	.	.	2,159 14
Total, ..	.	.	<u>\$14,001 65</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Expenditures from January 1, 1865, to October,

1, 1865, \$31,565 12

RECEIPTS FOR SAME PERIOD.

Cash from State treasurer, \$30,405 44

Cash from stock sold, 1,159 68

Total receipts in 1865, \$31,565 12

Amount expended and received during the year,

for both current and extraordinary expenses, was \$45,566 77

Amount of the appropriation remaining for 1865,

now is \$11,594 56

The items for current expenses are as follows, viz.:—

Salaries of Inspectors,	\$480 00
Salaries of resident officers,	6,044 00
Consultation fees, (medical,)	86 66
Chaplain,	200 00
Sundry persons, incidental labor,	196 44
Dry goods, bedding and clothing,	4,740 53
Tea, coffee, chocolate and shells,	897 64
Boots, shoes and leather,	912 09
Cows, beef and farm stock,	932 77
Transportation of merchandise, &c.,	477 05
Incidental expenses,	40 51
Post office expense,	30 71
Medicines and hospital supplies,	466 41
Light,	397 63
Soap and material,	260 29
Salt, vinegar, &c.,	131 25
Hops and malt,	44 40
Small groceries,	207 25
Hats and caps,	221 00
Tobacco,	130 90
Crockery, tin, glass and hardware,	84 00

Sundry goods,	\$47 95
Brooms, baskets, lines and pins,	95 15
Blacksmith and carriage work,	159 92
Farm implements and seeds,	104 27
Hay and straw,	262 09
Furniture,	75 34
Books, stationery and newspapers,	44 00
Lime and plaster,	37 85
Vegetables,	78 52
Miscellaneous provisions,	149 73
Taxes,	12 00
Cattle pasture,	13 22
Powder,	4 07
Plumbing repairs,	133 51
Painting,	25 30
Stoves, pipe and furnace repairs,	173 79
28½ cords of wood,	111 96
611 tons of coal,	6,965 67
11½ " fine feed,	549 75
12 dozen of eggs,	4 66
1,030 barrels of flour,	9,438 62
28 " crackers,	161 60
41 " apples,	104 50
169 " beef,	2,098 00
10 " pork,	225 00
5 " sweet potatoes,	23 00
2 " pickled fish,	31 00
948 bushels of grain,	1,413 02
94 " potatoes,	46 71
196 " beans,	371 74
1,192 gallons molasses,	671 70
1,656½ " milk,	331 30
25,850 pounds of meat,	2,205 27
1,381 " ham,	194 90
9,620 " fish,	510 83
1,546 " butter,	686 01
681½ " cheese,	51 36
1,374 " sugar,	256 41

Total paid for current supplies, \$44,851 25

Items of extraordinary expense are,—

Blinds for house,	\$19 25
Boiler for pump engine,	145 51
Hospital fixtures,	105 00
Range for house,	139 25
Lumber for yards and sheds,	173 97
Labor for yards and sheds,	132 54
<hr/>	
Total extraordinary expense,	\$715 52

At the time of making the last report, there was left in the treasury, to the credit of the house, a balance of \$2,443.69 from the appropriation of current expenses for the year 1863. By a Resolve of the legislature, permission was given to use as much of it as was necessary to complete a new play-ground for the school girls. For this purpose the sum of \$225.39 was applied. The balance, \$2,218.30, at the expiration of the year 1864, reverted back to the State treasury.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand, none.

Real estate—one hundred and fifty-six acres of land, with buildings thereon, as described in report of last year, with one additional shed for cattle, all of which has been returned by your appraiser, at the value of \$112,642.

PERSONAL ESTATE AND ITS VALUE.

Horses,	\$410 00
Cattle,	2,394 00
Swine,	2,425 50
Fowls,	184 22
Carriages and agricultural implements,	2,214 96
Machinery and mechanical fixtures,	4,535 12
Beds and bedding,	12,446 08
Other furniture,	2,105 45
Personal property in Superintendent's department,	3,047 47
Ready-made clothing,	8,112 46
Dry goods,	370 61
Provisions and groceries,	3,232 53

Drugs and medicines,	\$546 78
Library,	475 18
Fuel,	6,556 42
Products of farm,	9,968 54
<hr/>	
Total personal property,	\$59,025 32
Total real estate,	112,642 00
<hr/>	
Total assets,	\$171,667 32
 Liabilities, none.	
Increased cash value of assets,	\$14,862 57

In computing the average weekly cost, I have only deducted from the sum charged to current expenses such articles as have been purchased within the year, and now on hand, and in excess value, to those of the same class last year, by reason of there being a larger quantity, and not because of increased prices. Were the increased value of assets for this year used for a basis in making the average statement, the result would show less considerably, but could hardly be considered the proper understanding of the matter.

The number averaged has been 582, and there has been used for current expenses the sum of \$44,851.25.

There is now on hand, in excess of last year, coal, wood, flour and grain, to the amount of \$5,508.05, which deducted, gives the amount used during the year, viz., \$39,343.20.

This divided by the number averaged, is \$1.30 per week.

After laying before you the business transactions of the year now closed, I find nothing to communicate additional or materially differing from suggestions made in the reports of former years. Our farming operations have been carried on with all the skill and vigor at command, and our labor in that department has been much better rewarded than in some of the past years. Although the drouth has affected some of the crops, on the whole, the yield has been good, there not having been an entire failure in any of the various crops. The hay and oats were of most excellent quality, and in crop an average. The potatoes are the best specimens ever raised here, and by far the greatest yield, there being, by actual measurement, considerably

more than three thousand bushels. For a detailed account of the farm products, you are referred to the inventory of the appraiser, David Bryant, Esq., of Boston, whose services in that capacity for so many years at this institution, have been characterized by thoroughness and accuracy in every particular. From the large number of persons admitted here through the year, it is supposed a great amount of labor is obtained, and that too, well adapted to agricultural pursuits. From this source the labor has been for the past three or four years, gradually diminishing, until the present, when it has been almost nothing, save what a few idiotic and demented insane have been able to do. This condition of things is not because none come that do not become able to labor after sufficient rest and nursing, but is the result of the system of admitting and discharging. Unless there is some change in this, it is evident that very much more paid labor must be employed, if we would continue the work of permanent improvements. This seems to be wrong, because we are obliged to receive and provide for a class of inmates, that, when restored to health, might do much good, if detained a reasonable length of time. While I am far from believing that any person, through accident or misfortune beyond control, obliged thereby to seek a home here, should be held after the return of health, I do believe, and would earnestly suggest, that the class of inmates made paupers by idleness and vice, should be longer detained. There are many reasons why this should be done, among them, and most important of all, is that it would be doing them a lasting good, by teaching them the value of industrial and economical habits, the absence of which has brought them to their present position of dependence.

As the law now is, the inmates can be admitted and discharged whenever they wish, of course taking care to stop no longer than is needed to put them in condition, physically, to again engage in the same practices that caused their admittance here and other similar institutions, perhaps, many times. For those of respectable character, who have become poor by no fault of their own, the present system of admitting and discharging is not objectionable; but for those of a criminal character, some change is needed. This, I think, must be the conclusion of all whose experience has made them fully conversant with the

practical working of the present system. On examination, if the evils spoken of are found to exist, and a remedy is wanted, something that would work better and restore this class of our State paupers, and that, too, at a small expense to the Commonwealth, perhaps the establishment of a "work-house" in connection with one of the almshouses, or as a distinct institution, would be worth while to consider. I have no doubt such an establishment would have a good effect on pauperism,—tend to diminish and lessen the expense of it. Nor would this be all; much would be done under the influence of industrial habits, towards fitting them to occupy respectable positions in society. Is it not a subject of sufficient importance to investigate? Our noble Commonwealth, foremost in all good works, and renowned the world over for her public charitable institutions, as well as her individual ones, in the person of so many of her citizens, would be but following her instinct, in providing a home of detention for her criminal paupers, of both sexes. As now controlled, there is great reason to fear the burthen will not be much lighter. It is this class of our inmates that count up so fast, because of their frequent discharge and admittance, and could they be held a reasonable length of time, under suitable regulations, I think both they and the Commonwealth would be benefited; with the former it could not be otherwise. The hospital department is in charge of a kind and experienced physician whose detailed report, placed before you, with your own weekly observations, must inform you of the care and condition of the sick. As is well known, many of the inmates of this department come from a class that have been cared for very poorly, either by themselves or others, and being by their habits in no condition to resist disease, there is but little hope of recovery. Of these very extreme pitiable cases, there has been a less number admitted during the latter part of this year than formerly. The law passed at the session of the last legislature has, in some degree checked it.

The schools, claiming your attention and watchful care, perhaps more than any other portion of your charge, continue to be taught by teachers fully competent to instruct the children in any of our public schools, and the benefits conferred upon the children in this almshouse have been all that reasonable minds could expect. While, in common with similar institutions, we

have to contend with many disadvantages or hindrances, not to be found in schools controlled by the towns, among which is the constant alternating of the children ; and in addition thereto, the law of classification lays upon these schools a heavy contribution, and to satisfy this demand, the most promising ones are called for. None are wanted at Monson under the age of five years, nor do they expect such as are diseased, either mentally or physically, but on the contrary, now and then, find it necessary (in order to comply with this law,) to transfer to this house some of the former class. These remarks are not made in any spirit of fault-finding with the classification law, which takes from these schools the most promising and interesting pupils, but purposely to show, that in comparison, they deserve no criticism, and I think, in the judgment of minds unprejudiced, will receive none. The teachers have cause for encouragement, because they are engaged in a good work ; and, though the exhibition, or showy part, may not be quite so flattering to the superficial eye, with this class of pupils, there is great consolation in the thought, that much real good is done, the more so, because it is done unto those, the most of all, needy.

In regard to the insane, a large number of whom are still here, permit me to join with you in again urging the necessity of a separate receptacle for them, and for the reasons stated in reports of former years.

In calling the attention of the Hon. Secretary of the Board of State Charities to the necessity of relieving that portion of the main building, now occupied by these persons, he fully and cordially coincided with me, that some kind of relief should be furnished, and would be, he thought, when the receptacle, building at a similar institution, where relief was more urgent, should be completed. Should this be done, as we have reason to hope, a partial relief, at least, will be afforded.

The duties of Chaplain are still discharged by the Rev. P. L. Cushing whose report of this department is herewith presented. The usual exercises for the moral and religious welfare of the inmates have been continued through the year, and it is hoped that the lessons of truth, so often placed before them, and in a manner, too, so well calculated to reach the heart, may not all be lost ; especially do we feel, in regard to the youth,

that some of the seed here sown, will, at some time in their lives, spring up, grow, and yield fruit. In addition to the labors of the house chaplain, a clergyman of their own faith visits the inmates once every week, and labors faithfully for the best good of all. To the sick his ministrations afford much comfort. Massachusetts, honored and loved the world over, for her charitable endowments, desires to take no retrograde steps in her Christian effort, among the children of misfortune. Her mission is to relieve suffering humanity ; its results are before the world. In closing, I desire to renew my obligations, for your promptness and readiness, at all times, to advise and co-operate with me, in discharging the duties incumbent upon my position.

Respectfully submitted.

L. L. GOODSPEED, *Superintendent.*

BRIDGEWATER, September 30, 1865.

NAMES OF OFFICERS AND SALARIES.

James Ford, J. B. Thaxter, and J. H. Mitchell, *Inspectors*.

Salary of each, \$160.

L. L. Goodspeed and wife, <i>Superintend't and Matron</i> ,	\$1,500 00
S. L. Young, <i>Physician</i> ,	800 00
J. E. Harlan, <i>Consulting Physician</i> ,	100 00
P. L. Cushing, <i>Chaplain</i> ,	200 00
W. C. Howland, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> ,	500 00
Galen Conant, <i>Farmer</i> ,	450 00
E. B. Ellis, <i>Farmer</i> ,	360 00
J. H. Hamblin, <i>Engineer</i> ,	400 00
John Smithick, <i>Nurse</i> ,	360 00
S. H. Linton, <i>Watchman</i> ,	312 00
Margaret Youdell, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	225 00
Julia Decker, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Belinda Palmer, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Ann Youdell, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	184 00
Carrie Patten, <i>Assistant Matron</i> ,	208 00
Frances Robinson, <i>Teacher</i> ,	200 00
Adalaide Patten, <i>Teacher</i> ,	200 00

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of the State Almshouse at Bridgewater :

GENTLEMEN,—In examining the records of the medical department of this institution for the past year, I find a few things to which I would particularly invite your attention, in addition to those exhibited in tabular form.

SUMMARY.

The number of patients admitted to hospital,	.	.	1,131
now remaining in hospital,	.	.	127
number of deaths the past year,	.	.	165
discharged,	.	.	839

The approximate ages of those who died the past year were as follows :—

Eighty years and upwards,	.	.	.	.	.	7
Between seventy and eighty,	.	.	.	.	.	14
sixty and seventy,	.	.	.	.	.	16
fifty and sixty,	.	.	.	.	.	14
forty and fifty,	.	.	.	.	.	14
thirty and forty,	.	.	.	.	.	16
twenty and thirty,	.	.	.	.	.	15

Between ten and twenty,	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
five and ten,	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
two and five,	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
one and two,	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Less than one year,	.	.	.	.	.	.	49
							<hr/>
Total,	.	.	.	.	.	.	165

The number of deaths in proportion to the number of cases treated may seem at first view to be large, but on close inspection of Table No. 2, which shows the causes of this mortality, no one can be surprised at the amount. There were twenty-nine deaths from consumption, thirteen from marasmus, eight from paralysis, seven from cancer, three from hernia, and sixteen from old age. Many of these cases of consumption, paralysis, cancer and hernia, had been previously treated at other hospitals, or by physicians and surgeons in private practice, pronounced incurable and sent here to die. Twenty-one died who had passed their threescore and ten years; of these seven had passed their fourscore years; of these three had passed their ninetieth year, and one lived to the extraordinary age of ninety-seven years.

This was the case of Abraham Scowell, who had been an inmate of this institution for about ten years. He seemed an honest and intelligent man, and retained his intellect till his decease; and according to his story had been a British soldier, had fought with Wellington at Waterloo and in the Peninsula war.

If proper allowance was made for these fifty-six cases of incurable disease, and also for the twenty-seven "foundlings,"—for experience shows that three out of four of such children die before they have completed their first year,—it will then appear that the mortality in this institution is no greater in proportion to the cases treated, than in other hospitals where such patients are not admitted. The larger number of consumptives which annually swell the list of mortality here in proportion to the like cases in other almshouses in the State, is accounted for in part by arrivals of Kanakas and Western

Islanders from the whaling ships of New Bedford. The climate of this State is very unfavorable to this class of invalids. Besides, the statistics of the causes of mortality show that death from consumption is more frequent in the south-easterly counties than in other parts of this State.

This institution was visited by whooping-cough the past year. It appeared in October and prevailed till June, when it seemed to subside for the want of a subject. It was brought here again in September, but no new case has yet appeared from contagion. There were three deaths from this disease, that is, three children had whooping-cough when they died; but they were puny, feeble, diseased children from their birth. This disease is in many cases not simple, but complicated, and frequently gives rise to cerebral symptoms and a disordered condition of the bowels; and some cases, reported in Table No. 2 as having died of convulsions, dentition, cholera infantum and hydrocephalus, owed their origin to this cause.

During the past year there were ninety-seven cases of sore eyes treated in the hospital. These cases were classed thus: Twenty-six were adults, of whom twenty had sore eyes when they entered the institution; seventy-one were children, most of whom had either been treated here for this complaint before, or were suffering from this disease when they came to the institution. In my judgment most of these children are predisposed to this disease. It is strenuous in its character, frequently syphilitic and congenital. Of the fifty-two children born in this institution the past year, a majority were illegitimate, and some of the mothers were suffering from venereal disease at the time of parturition. Children born of such mothers are most always tainted with scrofulous and ophthalmic diseases.

Thirteen children with sore eyes were removed last August from this hospital to Rainsford Island, by direction of the Board of State Charities. Eight of these cases were chronic, and had been treated many times. Five were acute, and had just come to the institution. It is to be hoped that the opportunities there for sea-bathing, the bracing atmosphere, and other advantages, will effect an entire cure. This institution is now freer from ophthalmic disease than it has been before

for a long time. There are now but five children under treatment for ophthalmia.

In conclusion, gentlemen, permit me to thank you, and also the Superintendent and Matron, for the courtesy and kindness which have been extended to me during the year just closed.

SAM'L L. YOUNG, *Physician*.

BRIDGEWATER STATE ALMSHOUSE, Oct. 1, 1865.

TABLE No. 1.

Showing the Number of Cases of Sickness in the State Almshouse at Bridgewater, from October 1st, 1864, to September 30th, 1865, with the Number of Cases for each Month, and the Names of the Principal Diseases. Also the Average Number on the Sick List for the Year and for each Month.

DISEASES.	Totals.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.
Of Alimentary Canal, { Cancrum Oris, Diarrhoea and Dysentery, Marasmus, Piles,	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
	23	4	7	5	3	2	2	3	3	3	5	5	7
	14	2	2	1	3	3	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
	28	10	10	7	6	5	3	3	4	5	3	2	2
Of Respiratory Organs, { Asthma, Catarrh, Consumption, Pleurisy and Pneumonia, Pertussis,	9	1	1	2	2	—	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
	12	—	—	—	—	4	4	3	—	—	5	—	—
	60	18	17	16	19	20	20	15	15	19	20	21	20
	10	—	—	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	—	—	—
	91	12	12	13	17	25	28	28	20	13	6	—	1
Of Nervous Centres, { Apoplexy and Paralysis, Dentition, Epilepsy and Convulsions, Fever, Insanity, Neuralgia and Rheumatism,	15	7	7	8	9	9	7	6	4	6	7	8	8
	15	3	3	4	7	9	8	4	2	2	2	3	4
	16	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
	23	—	3	4	4	7	6	2	1	1	—	—	8
	27	14	14	13	12	15	16	16	15	12	16	15	12
	62	12	13	15	16	12	11	13	13	12	9	5	10
Of the Skin, { Eczema, Erysipelas, Scabies,	5	—	—	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	—	—
	18	3	3	4	2	—	4	4	—	1	1	2	2
	45	2	3	7	8	18	17	12	11	9	6	5	4

<i>Of the Skin,</i>	{ Scrofula,	25	15	16	16	16	16	13	13	13	14	17	14	12	12
	{ Other Diseases of the Skin,	5	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1
<i>Of the Eye,</i>	{ Iritis and Retinitis,	18	6	6	6	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	2
	{ Ophthalmia,	97	23	14	10	9	10	12	9	9	9	11	16	16	12
<i>Venereal Diseases,</i>	{ Gonorrhœa,	37	5	7	2	5	13	16	13	13	9	—	—	2	5
	{ Rupa,	14	7	7	7	8	7	6	6	6	5	4	7	7	7
	{ Stricture,	9	2	2	—	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3
	{ Syphilis,	110	26	26	24	23	24	30	35	35	35	30	27	23	21
<i>Surgical and other Diseases,</i>	{ Abscesses,	95	4	2	6	5	4	6	4	4	2	2	10	7	4
	{ Burns, Scalds and Frost-bites,	9	1	1	2	2	4	3	3	3	1	1	3	1	1
	{ Cancer,	9	5	6	7	4	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	1
	{ Diabetes and Dropsy,	35	6	6	4	4	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	4	3
	{ Fistulæ,	7	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—
	{ Fracture, Luxations & Sprains,	14	2	7	8	7	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
	{ Hernia,	14	1	2	3	4	1	1	4	4	4	4	2	3	1
	{ Parturition,	56	4	4	2	4	8	9	3	3	4	8	6	3	1
	{ Debility and Old Age,	81	19	20	22	23	25	25	22	22	20	20	15	20	25
	{ All other Diseases,	19	4	6	7	8	2	3	4	4	4	2	3	1	1
Total,		1,131	225	229	237	249	246	274	247	212	202	202	178	196	
Averages,		129.	125.	130.	130.	137.	139.	145.	149.	123.	121.	121.	117.	119.	

[illegible][illegible]

* Foundlings.

TABLE NO. 3.

Showing the Number of Births in the State Alms-house, at Bridgewater, from October 1, 1864, to September, 30, 1865, with a Statement of the Sex, and whether Illegitimate, Twins, or Still-born, the Birth-place of the Mothers, and the whole Number since the opening of the Institution.

MONTHS.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Twins.	Stillborn.	Illegitimate.			Birth-place of Mother.			
						American Parentage.	Foreign Parentage.	Total.	U. States.	Ireland.	British Provinces.	Other Countries.
October, .	4	3	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	1
November, .	3	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
December, .	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
January, .	4	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
February, .	8	5	3	-	-	3	2	5	4	3	1	-
March, .	9	6	3	-	-	2	3	5	3	5	1	-
April, .	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	-
May, .	4	2	2	-	-	1	1	2	3	1	-	-
June, .	7	1	6	-	1	3	2	5	2	2	1	2
July, .	5	2	3	-	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	-
August, .	3	1	2	-	-	1	2	3	1	-	2	-
September, .	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals, .	52	25	27		4	13	14	27	19	21	8	3

Whole number since the opening of the Institution, . . . 619

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the State Almshouse, Bridgewater :

GENTLEMEN,—The moral as well as the physical and social condition of the persons received into the almshouse, from year to year, is so nearly identical, that what is stated of them in one annual report, may, with equal truth, be said in another. Since my connection with this institution, there has been little or no perceptible change in this regard, in the inmates as a whole. While new faces are always met in the chapel, hospitals and various departments, one cannot fail to read in them the same history of misfortune or sin, or both, the details of which, when learned in personal conversation, present a marked correspondence. Almost all are found to be persons from the squalid abodes of debased appetite and sin, and the earliest recollections of many are of strife, drunkenness and shame. It may be said of some that they almost literally imbibed with their mother's milk, the moral poison with which their lives have been infected ; and it is a sad reflection indeed that so bitter an experience has left the heart and life unchanged. Ever learning, and never coming to a knowledge of the truth, instead of making the best use of the present, they are oftener engaged in laying plans for the future, in which other circumstances shall attend and other scenes surround them, where they vainly hope, or profess to hope, they will be able to improve upon the past ; and it is to be feared such is the force of association and habit, and more than all of corrupt inclination, strengthened by the demands of both, that few of this class ever awake to the realization of their true condition and the means of improving it. In passing through the hospitals, I

always meet some whose views of life and personal duty are more elevated, with whom it is a pleasure to converse. They do not repine, but express resignation to God's will, and trust in His mercy, as their hope in life and joy in death. They have almost invariably received early religious instruction, and have found a home here from sickness, or poverty in old age, or other circumstances from which they had not the means or the force of character to extricate themselves. It is worthy of remark how intelligent such persons are, in their views of Divine love and goodness and human obligation and faithlessness, though their ideas of thrift and the practical duties of life may be extremely lax. Illustrations of this fact might be presented, were it not for extending the limits of this Report beyond what is desirable.

The Scripture truth which I have endeavored to present to those who are able to come to the chapel, has been such as seemed, after a careful consideration of their condition and circumstances, to be specially suited to their peculiar need. I have aimed to divest myself of the consciousness that others were present, and to apply myself to them in plain language, rarely failing to win their attention. In occasional visits to the hospitals and other parts of the institution, a similar course has been pursued. The time spent in the discharge of my duties has not been without pleasure to myself, and I hope, not without some advantage to those to whom it has been appropriated. My intercourse with all connected with the house has been agreeable, and I wish renewedly to express my thanks to the Superintendent and his lady, for the attention and kindness they have shown me.

Respectfully submitted.

P. LINCOLN CUSHING, *Chaplain.*

SEPTEMBER 30, 1865.